

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



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Mark 1:16–20

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16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. **17** And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” **18** And immediately they left their nets and followed him. **19** And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. **20** And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Jesus calls us; we don’t pick Jesus

- “16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ . . . 19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him” (vv. 16–17, 19–20).
- How does Jesus call?
 - Jesus as rabbi
 - “Rabbis in this era never directed persons to become their disciples. Pupils were self-selecting and chose a rabbi they thought would best instruct them in the law. . . . The primary loyalty of the disciple was to the law, and he could join

himself to another rabbi if he thought that he could learn more about the law from him” (David Garland, *A Theology of Mark's Gospel*, 389).

- Jesus as prophet
 - "19 So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. . . . Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him” (1 Kings 19:19, 21).
- How does Jesus call us?
 - “Jesus does not call individuals because they possess outstanding personal qualities or demonstrate extraordinary religious devotion or flair. The calling is an act of grace that simultaneously imposes an enormous demand. He does not seek them out in some hallowed religious setting such as the synagogue or house of study but encounters them in the midst of their daily work. The command to follow inescapably explodes their everyday world” (David Garland, *A Theology of Mark's Gospel*, 390).
 - Jesus picks us as an act of grace.

Jesus will cost you (but it's worth it!)

- “**18** And immediately they left their nets and followed him. . . . **20** And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him” (vv. 18, 20).
- What does Jesus' calling cost?
 - Career
 - Family
- What does Jesus' calling cost us?
 - “34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it’” (Mark 8:34–35).
 - The benefit of following Jesus far outweighs the cost.

Discipleship isn't just about knowing stuff; Jesus wants you to do something

- “And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men’” (v. 17).
- What does it mean to fish for people?
 - “Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares the Lord, and they shall catch them” (Jeremiah 16:16a).
 - “To fish for people is to rescue them from sin and death by calling them into God's kingdom” (Mark Strauss, *Mark*, 64).
- What does Jesus want us to do?
 - “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).
 - Jesus has not only changed you; he's enlisted you on his mission.

Jesus' calling is unlike anyone else! (except for one)

- “**18** And immediately they left their nets and followed him. . . . **20** And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him” (vv. 18, 20).
- Who is Jesus like?
 - “The only explanation that readers can give for the sudden obedience of these disciples is that Jesus’ call possesses a divine power that compels them to obey” (David Garland, *A Theology of Mark’s Gospel*, 265).
 - “Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you’. . . . So Abram went, as the Lord had told him” (Genesis 12:1, 4).
- Will you hear and obey Jesus’ calling?
 - Jesus’ calling is unlike anyone else because he is unlike anyone else. He’s God.

The kingdom of God comes through the authoritative call of Jesus’ on ordinary people.

How will you respond to the call of Jesus?